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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 5,587,701  
Issue Date: December 24, 1996  
Application No. 08/303,950  
Filed: September 9, 1994  
Patentee(s) Brian K. Hess

**ON PETITION**

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 12, 2005, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.


The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the above-identified patent unless a fee address@ (see PTO/SB/47) is submitted for the above-identified patent.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

  
Irvin Dingle  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

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